

I am profoundly concerned about the effect that media ownership consolidation is having on the quality and diversity of content in all media formats. News coverage is becoming dumbed down, contributing to a diminishing level of civic education. Television programming is largely a wasteland of juvenile indulgences and increasingly violent and sexual behavior. Meanwhile, as radio stations compete with each other to decide which is really the station of the "60s, 70s, and 80s", or some other innane lowest-common-denominator format, there is almost no classical music, jazz music, or independent progressive music anywhere on the dial. Instead, stations only program top 40 pop, picking the one or two big hits by performers, and driving them into the ground. I do not agree that the public is better served by allowing market forces to determine the who owns what, and how content will be determined. In the case of broadcast mediums, the FCC should play a much more pro-active role in soliciting and acting on public comment on how specific licensed operators are serving the public--not simply accepting arguments presented by owners that they know what the people want. Broadcasters must commit themselves to serving the public better. This is their obligation in exchange for the right to own a license in a highly limited spectrum.